

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 895

By Travis

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Craig Thomas Mercer of Pikeville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Craig Thomas Mercer of Pikeville; and

WHEREAS, Craig Thomas Mercer was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on October 3, 1957, Mr. Mercer was the son of Jesse and Sandy Mercer and Ruth Ann Vaughan Searce and came from a large family of nine siblings; and

WHEREAS, Craig Mercer began working at a young age at a full-service gas station, and when he was old enough to drive, he began hauling logs; he later worked at La-Z-Boy, Tecumseh, and Executone; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mercer was employed by the Electric Power Board in Chattanooga for more than fifteen years, during which time he played an instrumental role in the establishment of the telecommunication department; and

WHEREAS, offering himself for public service to his community in Bledsoe County, Mr. Mercer rendered sterling service for fifteen years and was elected by his fellow commissioners to serve as chairman in 2002; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to public service, Mr. Mercer was a firefighter with the Pikeville Fire Department and volunteered with the Bledsoe County Rescue Squad during his earlier years; he often gave tours of the fire hall to area youth groups, delivered smoke detectors to the elderly, and helped neighbors in their time of need; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mercer was a member of the Lion's Club and the Mutual Aid Association, where he served as a secretary; he also volunteered with a number of local organizations and activities, including the American Cancer Society, the Bledsoe County Fair, Christmas parades, fall festivals, and car shows; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Craig Mercer enjoyed forty-five years of marriage with his wife, Rita Webb Mercer; he was the proud father of three children, Jennifer (David) Conley, Cindy (Roy) Daniels, and Josh (Holly) Mercer, and doting grandfather of seven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, a man of many interests, Mr. Mercer cherished his grandchildren and their automobile excursions, and he enjoyed pitching horseshoes, fishing, and serving as an umpire for softball games in his younger years, but his preferred hobby was bowling; and

WHEREAS, Craig Thomas Mercer leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Craig Thomas Mercer, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.

